



NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney Jackie Lacey Celebrates Two Families for their Courage and Heroism

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey today honored two Southern California families for their bravery in apprehending dangerous criminals in the communities of Lancaster and Duarte.

District Attorney Lacey praised a brother and sister whose quick thinking led to the capture of a man accused of killing a sheriff's deputy; and three siblings who protected a woman as she was being viciously beaten by her husband.

"These honorees are role models for their generation – caring young people who exhibited tremendous courage and strength – both physically and mentally," District Attorney Lacey said. "They remind us of the core values we all share. They are heroes and they give me great hope for our future."

District Attorney Lacey recognized the five honorees this afternoon at a Courageous Citizen Awards luncheon hosted by the Pasadena Rotary Club.

The District Attorney's Office presents Courageous Citizen Awards several times a year to ordinary people who have performed extraordinary acts of selflessness in assisting in criminal prosecutions, aiding victims, preventing crimes, or capturing suspects.

The honorees are:

Nancy Arrowsmith-Hart, 20, Trevor Hart, 18, both of Lancaster (Case no. MA069699)

Nancy Arrowsmith-Hart and Trevor Hart were at home in Lancaster on Oct. 5, 2016, when a man approached their house and talked his way in. The man told them he had been robbed and needed medical help.

Once inside, the man held the siblings at knife-point. Unbeknownst to them, the man was wanted in connection with the shooting death of a sheriff's deputy.

Inside the house, the family's dog barked continuously, making the man uneasy. To calm his captor, Trevor suggested moving the pet to another area of the house. He deliberately locked the dog in a room where guns were stored, preventing the man from acquiring more weapons.

Meanwhile, Nancy secretly texted her mother, who alerted deputies about the suspected shooter's location. Soon after, authorities arrived, forcing the man out of the house and arresting him.

The 27-year-old defendant was charged with one count each of capital murder, attempted murder and possession of a firearm by a felon and two counts each of first-degree residential robbery and false imprisonment by violence. He is awaiting trial.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Angelica Hernandez, 25, Sergio Hernandez, 22, Javier Hernandez, 17, all of Duarte (Case no. GA096291)

On May 17, 2015, a man demanded that his wife leave their Duarte home. He grabbed the woman by her hair and dragged her into the street.

Sergio Hernandez heard the cries. He told his sister Angelica to call police. As she telephoned 911, her younger brother Javier joined Sergio. The brothers ran after the man, who was hitting the woman with a belt.

Sergio, without concern for his safety, pushed the man away from his wife. The man struck Sergio, who returned a punch. The man then tried to hit back but missed. Sergio punched the man again, giving the woman time to escape.

During the fight, the man attempted to flee. But Javier tackled him and Sergio pinned him down. The man struggled with the brothers and bit Sergio's arm. Coming to her brother's aid, Angelica shoved the man's head away from Sergio.

The Hernandez siblings detained the defendant until authorities arrived. They also testified against the man during a jury trial, sparking him to change his plea.

On March 18, 2016, the 32-year-old defendant pleaded no contest to kidnapping and injuring a spouse. He was sentenced to three years in prison.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.